

Sick

At Home:

Calvin Rogers
Georgia Brooks
Debbie Fitro (*Rickey Hurst's sister*)
Grady Hurst (*Rickey's father*)
Mary Davis-following surgery
Melba Hillis (*Steve's grandmother*)
Freda Womack
J.C. Clemons (*Leonard's brother*)
Lee & Lynn Gann following an accident
Glyna Lee
Clyde Paris (*Nona Martin & Nelma Chilton's brother-in-law*)
Brenda Smith (*Jennifer Maynard's aunt*)
Almetia Jones (*Susan Pryor's daughter*)

In The Hospital:

Hoyt Crouch-Stones River/Woodbury
Betty Lane-River Park
Loy Watson-Middle Tennessee Medical Center
Perry Woodlee (*Nona Martin & Nelma Chilton's brother*)-Manchester Medical Center

Sympathy

The congregation continues to be touched with the loss of precious ones. This past Saturday morning sister Drucilla Crouch passed from this life and her funeral was Monday. Keep this good family in your prayers.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Chad & Emily Graves on the birth of a baby girl, Abigail Elizabeth, born January 16, 2008 at 7:57pm, she weighed 6lbs. 5oz and 20" long. Proud grandparents are Stanley & Sherry Graves.

Sermons Topics

Sunday AM Cakes Not Turned
Sunday PM Impartiality

Notes From Steve

BIRTHDAY WEDNESDAY!

All youth of the congregation are invited to help celebrate those with January birthdays this Wednesday night, following classes.

HOME DEVOTIONAL

The Elams will host this month's devotional this Sunday (1/27) immediately following our evening worship. Boys bring a 2 liter and girls bring a dessert.

FAMILY MATTERS RETREAT

Please make plans to join us February 15th – 17th as we embark on another trip to Pigeon Forge and Family Matters. See me for the cost. Also, you can go to www.familymattersretreat.com for more information.

Elders-Deacons Meeting

The scheduled meeting of the elders and deacons will be this coming Sunday afternoon at 5 pm.

Sentence Sermons

"It does not take the future long to be the present"

"The best way to spend time is to invest it in eternity"

"When it seems hardest to pray, pray hardest"

"Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday"

"Pray" is a four letter word that you can say anywhere (except in a public school).

"To be almost saved is to be totally lost."

"We don't change the message, the message changes us."

"Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it."

"Busy Here and There"

A study of 1 Kings will lead one to examine the wickedness of Ahab, and also to see the real power behind

him, that wicked and idolatrous Jezebel. These two had a real, powerful and spiritual adversary in God's servant, Elijah. There were other men of the prophets whom God used in bringing Ahab to the end his behavior demanded.

In a second period of conflict with the Syrians, God had promised to deliver them into the hands of Israel. God's people were greatly victorious, and the Syrian king then made a plea for the sparing of his life, and Ahab, calling him a "brother," spared him. God's words of rebuke were brought to Ahab in the form of a story wherein a man charged with keeping a prisoner safe, allowed him to escape. Ahab responded to the story in the enforcing of the penalty upon the guard; whereupon, the point turned against Ahab, who had the Syrian

king in his grasp and let him live. Of importance to us just here is the point, in the story, that the man on guard allowed his prisoner to escape because "I was busy here and there" (1 Kings 20:40).

"I was busy here and there" has other forms: "This and that" "taking care of things" "seeing to business" "getting straightened out", etc. It all boils down to failing to put the things of God first in our lives (Matthew 6:33). Those who do visitation and personal work every often will hear this given as a reason for non-attendance, non-participation: "Well, we've been so busy, we're going to do better as soon as we get straightened out." BUSY HERE AND THERE, AND LETTING THE THINGS OF GOD BE IGNORED.

It so happens that our times are such that anyone can "be busy here and there" and with "this and that," and never find time for God's things! Time is there on the calendar and on the clock, but it is MADE for God! I'll have time for no spiritual thing unless I MAKE IT! Let's plan to not lose our souls because we were "busy here and there!"

Bill Jackson — THE SOUTHWESTERNER

"Other" Crucifixions

Speak of crucifixion, and we immediately have our minds on the death of our Lord, and that's as it should be. However, the New Testament speaks of some "other" crucifixions. In our obedience to the gospel, the old man of sin, now dying, is said to be "crucified" (Romans 6:6). One who turns from the truth, and now is in the hardening processes of sin is said to be "crucifying the Son of God afresh" (Hebrews 6:6). But we especially now speak of Galatians 6:14, where Paul refers to the proper place of glorying, and in focusing on the Christ, he says, "By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Two "crucifixions" here: The world is crucified to the child of God, and the child of God is crucified unto the world.

In Romans 6:11, the apostle sets forth a mark in attitude that should now possess the Christian: Dead unto sin, but alive unto God. This is the idea in Galatians 6:14. Now, in obedience to God, the death taken place in obedience is a death "to the world," and its appeals, lusts, enticements. The Christian will not now let the world attract him. The Christian does not now live in that sphere! Indeed, the command now is this: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above....set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1, 2). The command is there, but the action must be taken by the individual, for there is no automatic work going on here. In fact, all of Christian living and Christian attitude involves the individual at work!

Bill Jackson — THE SOUTHWESTERNER